

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (currently amended) A recording paper comprising a paper support having a front surface and a rear surface opposite the front surface and a recording layer formed on the front surface of the paper support, the paper support having a ribbon-shaped security element embedded therein, the ribbon-shaped security element having a front surface facing the front surface of the paper support and a rear surface facing the rear surface of the paper support, and the recording paper being characterized in that:

the distance from the front surface of the paper support to the front surface of the security element is 1 to 7 times the thickness of the security element;

the distance from the rear surface of the paper support to the rear surface of the ribbon-shaped security element is 0.5 to 6 times the thickness of the security element;

the thickness of the paper support is 4 times to 10 times the thickness of the ribbon-shaped security element;

the thickness of the paper support is 40 to 250 $\mu$ m;

the ribbon-shaped security element has a width of 0.3 mm to 20 mm and a thickness of 10  $\mu$ m ~~to 80  $\mu$ m~~ to 40  $\mu$ m; and

the recording layer is a heat-sensitive recording layer

comprising an electron-donating compound, an electron- accepting compound and a binder.

2-5. (canceled)

6. (original) The recording paper according to claim 1, in which the security element comprises a synthetic resin film and is a ribbon-shaped security element having a color different from that of the paper support.

7. (currently amended) The recording paper according to claim 1, in which the security element is a ribbon-shaped security element comprising a synthetic resin film provided with a vapor deposited ~~metal~~ metal layer on at least one side thereof, the paper support having a thickness of at least 3 times the total thickness of the vapor deposited metal layer and the synthetic resin film.

8. (original) The recording paper according to claim 7, in which the vapor deposited metal layer is made of aluminum, copper, nickel, tin or zinc.

9. (previously presented) The recording paper according to claim 1, in which the security element is a ribbon-shaped security element comprising a synthetic resin film or a metallized synthetic resin film.

10. (original) The recording paper according to claim 1, in which the security element has an adhesive layer comprising an adhesive as a main component on at least part of its surface.

11. (original) The recording paper according to claim 10, in which the adhesive layer adheres to the paper support by contact of the adhesive layer and water when the security element having the adhesive layer is embedded within the paper support during paper making, or by the heat applied when the paper is dried after production, or by the pressure applied during supercalendering.

12. (original) The recording paper according to claim 10, in which the adhesive is a polyester resin-based adhesive, a urethane resin-based adhesive, an acrylic resin-based adhesive or a vinyl acetate resin-based adhesive.

13. (original)        The recording paper according to claim 10, in which the adhesive layer further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent dye, a fluorescent pigment and a luminescent pigment.

14. (original)        The recording paper according to claim 10, in which the adhesive layer is prepared by uniformly dispersing an adhesive, and if desired at least one member selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent dye, a fluorescent pigment and a luminescent pigment, in water or an organic solvent serving as a medium to obtain a coating composition for forming an adhesive layer, applying the resulting coating composition to the ribbon-shaped security element in an amount of about 1 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> on a dry weight basis, and drying the resulting coating.

15. (canceled)

16. (previously presented)    The recording paper according to claim 1, in which a protective layer containing a binder having a film forming ability is formed on the heat-sensitive recording layer.

17-18. (canceled)

19. (original) The recording paper according to claim 1, wherein an intermediate layer containing a pigment or hollow organic particles is provided between the paper support and the recording layer.

20. (currently amended) A paper support for a recording paper, the paper support having a front surface and a rear surface opposite the front surface and having a ribbon-shaped security element embedded therein, the ribbon-shaped security element having a front surface facing the front surface of the paper support and a rear surface facing the rear surface of the paper support, and the recording paper being characterized in that:

the distance from the front surface of the paper support to the front surface of the security element is 1 to 7 times the thickness of the security element;

the distance from the rear surface of the paper support to the rear surface of the ribbon-shaped security element is 0.5 to 6 times the thickness of the security element;

the thickness of the paper support is 4 times to 10 times the thickness of the ribbon-shaped security element;

the thickness of the paper support is 40 to 250 $\mu$ m; and  
the ribbon-shaped security element has a width of 0.3 mm to 20  
mm and a thickness of 10  $\mu$ m ~~to 80  $\mu$ m~~ to 40  $\mu$ m.

21-24. (canceled)

25. (original) The paper support according to claim 20,  
in which the security element comprises a synthetic resin film and  
is a ribbon-shaped security element having a color different from  
that of the paper support.

26. (original) The paper support according to claim 20,  
in which the security element is a ribbon-shaped security element  
comprising a synthetic resin film provided with a vapor deposited  
metal layer on at least one side thereof, the paper support having  
a thickness of at least 3 times the total thickness of the vapor  
deposited metal layer and the synthetic resin film.

27. (original) The paper support according to claim 26,  
in which the vapor deposited metal layer is made of aluminum,  
copper, nickel, tin or zinc.

28. (previously presented) The paper support according to claim 20, in which the security element is a ribbon-shaped security element comprising a synthetic resin film or a metallized synthetic resin film.

29. (original) The paper support according to claim 20, in which the security element has an adhesive layer comprising an adhesive as a main component on at least part of its surface.

30. (previously presented) The paper support according to claim 29, in which the adhesive layer adheres to the paper support by contact of the adhesive layer and water when the security element having the adhesive layer is embedded within the paper support, or by the heat applied when the paper is dried after production, or by the pressure applied during supercalendering.

31. (original) The paper support according to claim 29, in which the adhesive is a polyester resin-based adhesive, a urethane resin-based adhesive, an acrylic resin-based adhesive or a vinyl acetate resin-based adhesive.

32. (original) The paper support according to claim 29, in which the adhesive layer further comprises at least one member selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent dye, a fluorescent pigment and a luminescent pigment.

33. (previously presented) The paper support according to claim 29, in which the adhesive layer is prepared by uniformly dispersing an adhesive, and if desired at least one member selected from the group consisting of a fluorescent dye, a fluorescent pigment and a luminescent pigment, in water or an organic solvent serving as a medium to obtain a coating composition for forming an adhesive layer, applying the resulting coating composition to the ribbon-shaped security element in an amount of about 1 g/m<sup>2</sup> to about 10 g/m<sup>2</sup> on a dry weight basis, and drying the resulting coating.